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Title: Need to check the spread of Diphtheria in Kozhikode and Malappuram districts of Kerala.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Diphtheria fear has gripped Kozhikode and Malappuram districts of Kerala. It is an infectious disease. The symptoms include weakness, sore throat, fever and swollen glands in the neck. The disease spreads from person to person usually through respiratory droplets like coughing and sneezing.

Kozhikode has a coast line of over 50 Kilometers and Malappuram around 70 Kilometers and heavy rain has increased the spread of the virus.

Two persons of the 40 reported cases have died causing near panic situation in these two districts. This is not an ordinary situation especially in Kerala where health awareness is strong.

Moreover, the spread of the disease will also affect the travel to the Gulf countries where people from these two districts visit in large numbers.

There is acute shortage of Serum to cover both the districts. The Centre should, therefore, do all the possible to make available the serum for immediate use in these two districts. Further, steps should be taken to stop spreading the virus across the state and a Central Team should be deputed to study the ground situation for immediate relief.